

[29 November, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

The Government of the countries affected by these incidents of harassment against the Sikhs were prompt in responding to the situation and there are no reports of any new such incidents.

Refusal by Pakistan to accept relief for Afghani Refugees

1281. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's plan to send humanitarian assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan received a jolt when Pakistan informed India that it did not have adequate storage capacity for relief material;

(b) if so, whether now India has decided to sent one million tonnes of wheat, medicines, quilts and blankets etc. through areas held by the Northern Alliance and to refugees in Iran; and

(c) If so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH):

(a) to (c) As part of our commitment to ameliorate the condition of Afghan people, the Government has committed to offer humanitarian assistance for internally and externally displaced Afghans and others, in need, including through provision of one million tonnes of wheat. As part of our commitment, we had proposed to send to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, through the Government of Pakistan, a consignment of wheat. Government of Pakistan indicated that it had sufficient stocks of wheat, and faced problems related to storage facilities.

Government is in touch with several countries as well as with various UN agencies, including the World Food Programme and is engaged in working out the modalities for sending humanitarian assistance of wheat and other items to the Afghan people as early as possible. Recently, two consignments of medical relief material of the quantum of over forty tonnes were dispatched for Afghan people.

Extradition of Indian Terrorists from Pakistan

1282. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have demanded from the Pakistan Government to hand over certain terrorists to India to stand trial;